

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McLellan, *et al* (hereafter "McLellan") (US20010008305). Applicant submits that these claims, as amended above, are not anticipated by McLellan.

McLellan teaches an arrangement in which the leads are arranged in a multi-row array such that each lead is available from the bottom of the package. However, the leads do not extend to the sides of the package as now required by Claim 1 as amended above, and hence, McLellan does not anticipate Claim 1 or the claims dependent therefrom.

The claimed arrangement allows a simple lead frame to be utilized in which the individual package dies can be singulated by sawing while still providing the advantages of a dense multi-row lead arrangement in which each lead connection can be accessed from the bottom of the package to provide a leadless package. The present invention avoids the wet etching and plating processes that must be carried out during assembly of the devices taught in McLellan. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 2, and 4 are not anticipated by, or obvious in view of McLellan.

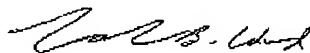
The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan, *et al*. (hereafter "Fan") (US 6,400,004) in view of Templeton Jr. *et al*. (hereafter "Templeton") (US 5,457,340). Applicant submits that these claims, as amended above, are not obvious in view of the cited references.

Both Fan and Templeton teach packaging arrangements in which each signal lead has a tail that extends to an edge of the package thereby providing an arrangement that is suitable for simple saw singulation. However, the exposed portions of the signal leads are arranged in a single ring around the periphery of the package with each exposed portion being the same distance from the edge to which that signal lead is connected. As such, the devices can only accommodate a relative small number of leads compared to the number that can be provided utilizing a device according to the present invention. Templeton does not provide the missing

teaching. Hence, Applicant submits that Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are not obvious in view of the cited references.

I hereby certify that this paper is being sent by FAX to 703-872-9306.

Respectfully Submitted,



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